LEITRIM - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE Aghagrania stream section

Other names used for site

IGH THEME IGH8 Lower Carboniferous

TOWNLAND(S) Aghagrania, Drumcronan, Dorrusawillin, Corloughlin,

Largan, Sheskinacurry

NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE Drumshanbo

SIX INCH MAP NUMBER 23

ITM CO-ORDINATES 599749E 812213N (at Aghagrania Bridge) 1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER 26 GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 7

GIS CODE LM001

Outline Site Description

The site comprises the bed and banks of a stretch of the Aghagrania River, south of Slieve Anierin.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The site is the type section for the Meenymore Formation and includes stream sections through the Bellavalley Shale Formation overlying it. Both formations are of Mississipian (Dinantian, Lower Carboniferous) age and are part of the Leitrim Group.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The site is geologically important as the type, or representative, section exemplifying the Meenymore Formation. The rocks succeed the Bricklieve Limestone Formation, and represent a change in the broad environment at the time, related to a period of uplift. The rock types in the Meenymore Formation include laminated dolomites, shales and some evaporite layers, as well as other lithologies. In the formation as a whole, there are indications of shallow water deposition such as desiccation cracks, algal laminites and other features. The inferred setting is that of a sabkha-type environment – a coastal mudflat or saltflat in an arid climate.

The succeeding shale formations are more normal marine sediments. The Bellavalley Formation is 33 m thick and the Aghagrania site is the most complete in the district. However, exposure of the shale rock is poor in the stream section, as it is not a robust material.

Site Importance - County Geological Site

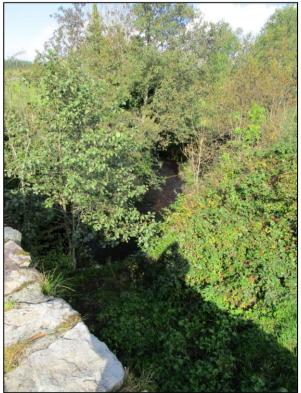
The site merits recognition as a County Geological Site, as the type section for the Meenymore Formation.

Management/promotion issues

The stream section is highly difficult to access and is unsuitable for promotion to a wider audience. It is important for geological science and mainly of interest to geologists. The stream runs through farmland and is heavily wooded and overgrown.



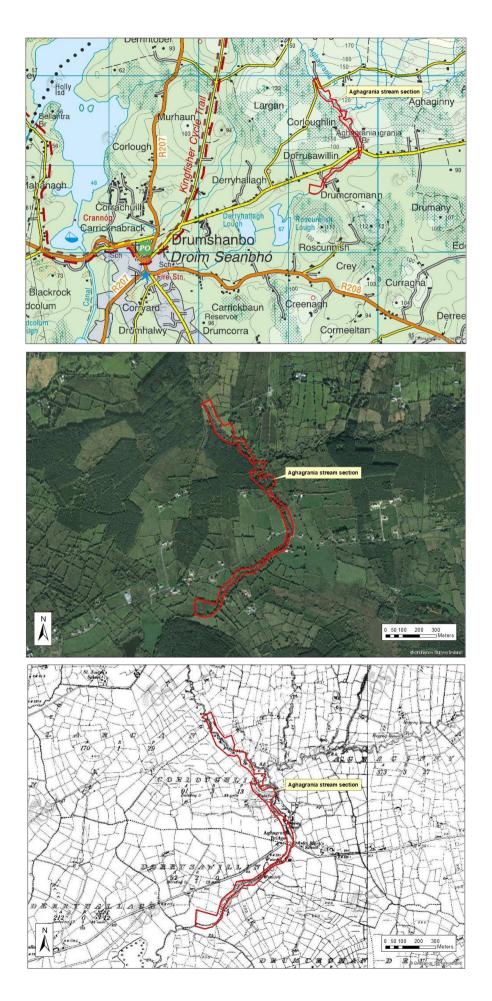
The view downstream from Aghagrania Bridge showing the stream section of the Meenymore Formation.



View upstream from Aghagrania Bridge.



One of the 'best' Bellavalley Shale Formation exposures.



Parkes et al., 2020. Geological Survey Ireland.